

Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education

Informational Brochure

ABC UNIT- Created to offer high quality early education services to children birth to five exhibiting developmental and socioeconomic risk factors. There are three different ABC program models: Center-based programs, Home-visiting programs (HIPPI and PAT) and Family Child Care Homes. Providers are selected by their ability to offer a high-quality program. These abilities are assessed annually by early education professionals who evaluate the applications. Targeted areas for services are selected using data from benchmark test scores, school improvement lists, free-reduced lunch information, Head Start enrollment and kindergarten enrollment. ABC operates as a grant program. Participating providers must renew ABC grants annually.

Contact the ABC Unit at 1-800-445-3316 or 1-501-682-8590 for more information

COMPLIANCE UNIT- Works with the programmatic sections of the Division and other appropriate Divisions within the Department to coordinate, investigate and track issues dealing with client or provider fraud, overpayments and audits. Also, the point of contact for IRS Levies, Garnishments and Freedom of Information Act requests.

Contact the Compliance Unit at 1-501-320-8976 for more information

FAMILY SUPPORT UNIT- Developed to provide assistance for low-income families. Provides financial assistance for quality child care and is made possible by the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF). An applicant must meet the following criteria: meet established income guidelines; each adult residing in the household must be employed at least 30 hours per week or be enrolled and attending high school, college, GED classes, vocational school or a training program as a full time student. A combination of school and work is acceptable if the individual is involved at a minimum of 30 hours and have an eligible child (0-12 years of age).

Contact the Family Support Unit at 1-800-322-8176 or 1-501-682-8947 for more information

LICENSING and ACCREDITATION UNITS -

Child Care Licensing Unit- Specialists license and conduct on-site inspections of Child Care Centers in addition to Licensed Homes and Registered Homes. They are also responsible for maintaining the Criminal Records Check System in conjunction with the Arkansas State Police. This unit checks the criminal records and child maltreatment records of all workers in child care centers or licensed homes.

Placement and Residential Licensing Unit- Specialists license and conducts on-site inspections for Residential, Emergency Residential, and Psychiatric Residential Treatment, Sexual Offender, and Independent Living facilities for children, and Child Placement Agencies that place children into foster and adoptive homes, and into residential facilities.

Accreditation Unit – Better Beginnings, a quality rating improvement system was developed to provide an opportunity for child care facilities to receive certification from the state of Arkansas in recognition of quality programming. It was designed to increase the number of children in high-quality child care and to assist parents in locating programs that promote quality early learning for children. The Better Beginnings System allows child care facilities to earn one star, two star or three star certification.

Contact the Child Care Licensing/Accreditation Unit at 1-800-445-3316 or 1-501-682-8590 or

Contact the Placement & Residential Licensing Unit at 1-800-445-3316 or 1-501-268-2714 for more information

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT UNIT- The Program Development unit is in a unique position of providing support services to child care providers, families, early care professionals and Division staff. Through the Better Beginnings Incentive grant programs, guarantee loans, Economic Development grants, the Child Care Resource Center, Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, printed materials, early care curriculum, on-line newsletters, web site updates, participation in special projects and Professional Development Contracts/Grants for training/professional development opportunities for the early care and education field; the Division staff in the Program Development unit guide and direct improving the quality, availability and accessibility of care for Arkansas Children.

Contact the Program Development Unit at 1-800-445-3316 or 1-501-682-9699 for more information

SPECIAL NUTRITION UNIT- Provides reimbursement for well-balanced, nutritious meals served to individuals enrolled in the Child Care and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), National School Lunch Program (NSLP), Special Milk Program (SMP), and the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). The program is available to the public, for profit and private nonprofit organizations providing licensed or registered non-residential day care services. Such organizations include childcare centers, adult care centers, outside school hour care, and daycare home organizations providing day care services for children with disabilities and/or special health care needs. Also, private for profit centers may qualify if at least 25 percent of the children who are receiving nonresidential care fall into the free and reduced category.

Contact the Special Nutrition Unit at 1-800-482-5850 or 1-501-682-8869 for more information



Physical Address:
700 Main Street
P.O. Box 1437, Slot S140
Little Rock, AR 72201
Website: <http://hs.arkansas.gov/dccece>



Arkansas Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies

Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies are contracted with the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education working in cooperation with the various units and programs within DCCECE to provide Technical Assistance to child care providers, maintain a child care referral database of licensed and registered programs within their defined region and provide the following professional development training: NAP SACC (Nutrition And Physical Activity Self-Assessment for Child Care); AI's Caring Pals (a behavior guidance training for Family Child Care Homes); TIPS (Teaching Important Parenting Skills); Strengthening Families; ASQ-3/SE (Ages and Stages- a parent/provider screening tool to identify developmental and social/emotional delays); Pre-Licensing; Arkansas Fit Kids; and Emergency Preparedness.

Each Resource and Referral Agency is a member of Child Care Aware of America, www.childcareaware.org, a national Child Care Resource and Referral Agency utilizing NACCRRAware for data collection and distribution.

See map on back for County Assignments

Child Care Aware of Northcentral Arkansas

Mission: Enhance the quality and availability of child care; advocate for children; and provide information, education, guidance and support to parents, providers, employers, and communities

Purpose: To enhance the quality of child care through provider education/training; increase supply of care by helping to recruit providers to meet identified community needs; promote quality; and to serve as a trend spotter through careful data collection & act as a Community Change Agent through advocacy and partnership building

Services: Annual children's concerts; spring and fall child care provider conferences; the Northcentral Arkansas Child Care Resource Center and Lending Library (with over 16,000 items). Offer financial and business consulting and technical assistance FREE of charge to facilities in 18 north central Arkansas counties.

Additional Trainings: Family Child Care Business Management Training; Money Matters – a training course for child care facilities focusing on fundraising, grant writing, partnerships and collaborations, budgets and justifications, and other “money matters”



Child Care Aware of Central and Southwest Arkansas

A Program of Child Care Connections



Mission: Provide services and information to the community, child care providers, and families to enhance the quality and availability of child care across the State of Arkansas

Purpose: Provide information to parents by phone or online about information and vacancies in child care; how to choose child care for families; assistance and information in child development and parenting

Services: Partner with businesses and industries in Pulaski County to provide benefits to employees such as child care referrals and parent education to families

Additional Trainings: Parent Education; Business Management; Program Development; Community Collaboration Training; Technical Assistance to agencies and individuals wishing to establish a child care program or who have existing child care programs

Child Care Aware of West Central Arkansas



Mission: To establish strong partnerships with families, child care providers and the community to promote and advocate for quality child care

Purpose: Provide parents and child care providers with information, resources, training, encouragement and support to help advance our community and ensure a strong educational foundation for the children in our region and state

Services: Coordinate and collaborate with state agencies, community programs and National Park Community College to provide quality professional development, parenting classes, resources and referrals. Distribute quarterly newsletter informing providers of training, web sites and events relevant to their needs.

Additional Training: Family Child Care Business Management, Professional Development KITS: Professionalism, Families and Learning Environment/Program for Children, and other trainings



Child Care Aware of Northeast Arkansas and Lonoke County



Mission: Provide coordinated regional and statewide services that promote a high quality child care system that meets the needs of the community

Purpose: To provide information to families, employers, businesses and child care providers: how to choose a provider; a checklist for evaluating the quality of child care programs, consumer education, training, and parental choice in child care; profiles of regulated child care

facilities. To recruit child care providers for care during non-traditional hours and document trends in child care, specifically gaps between supply and demand.

Services: Support new and existing providers with Better Beginnings; sponsor First Aid/CPR; Resource Center Lending; Curriculum Activities; Co-sponsor Statewide Family Child Care Conference; and New Provider Organizing Your Day

Additional Trainings: Baby Basics; Medication Administration; Managing Infectious Disease; Making First Experiences Count; Family Child Care Business Management and Family Child Care Provider Training; Nutrition Education for Cooks and Staff; and Basic Computer Courses



Child Care Aware of Northwest Arkansas and of River Valley

Mission: To promote the development and nurturing of all children through quality childcare that is safe and healthy for every child; work to strengthen and enhance parenting skill; improve communication between parent and childcare providers; work to retain, recruit, and train new child care providers

Purpose: A network of services dedicated to enhancing the quality and availability of childcare; advocating for children; and providing information, education, guidance and support to parents, providers, employers, and to the community.

Services: Provide child care referrals to parents, caregivers, DHS, social services, employers, etc.; provides resources and information for parents to assist in meeting the needs of children and families; quality enhancement for new and existing childcare facilities; a clearinghouse for childcare information and statistics; capacity building in areas with gaps in childcare services; Resource Center/Lending Library for children, parents and childcare providers

Additional Trainings: NWA Spring Child Care Conference and Western Arkansas Conferences; Family Child Care Business; Parenting Classes; and onsite training for child care providers



Child Care Aware of Southeast Arkansas

Mission: To construct and coordinate a network of childcare services that meets the needs of the community; to provide information and support about these services to families, employers and local childcare providers in order to foster the quality of family life; to provide services that will strengthen parenting skills and to promote successful childhood education and development of the children

Purpose: To enhance the quality of child care through provider education/training; provide technical assistance to present and prospective providers with the objective of promoting quality; increase the supply of care by helping to recruit providers to meet identified community needs; serve as a trend spotter through careful data collection; and act as a Community Change Agent through advocacy and partnership building

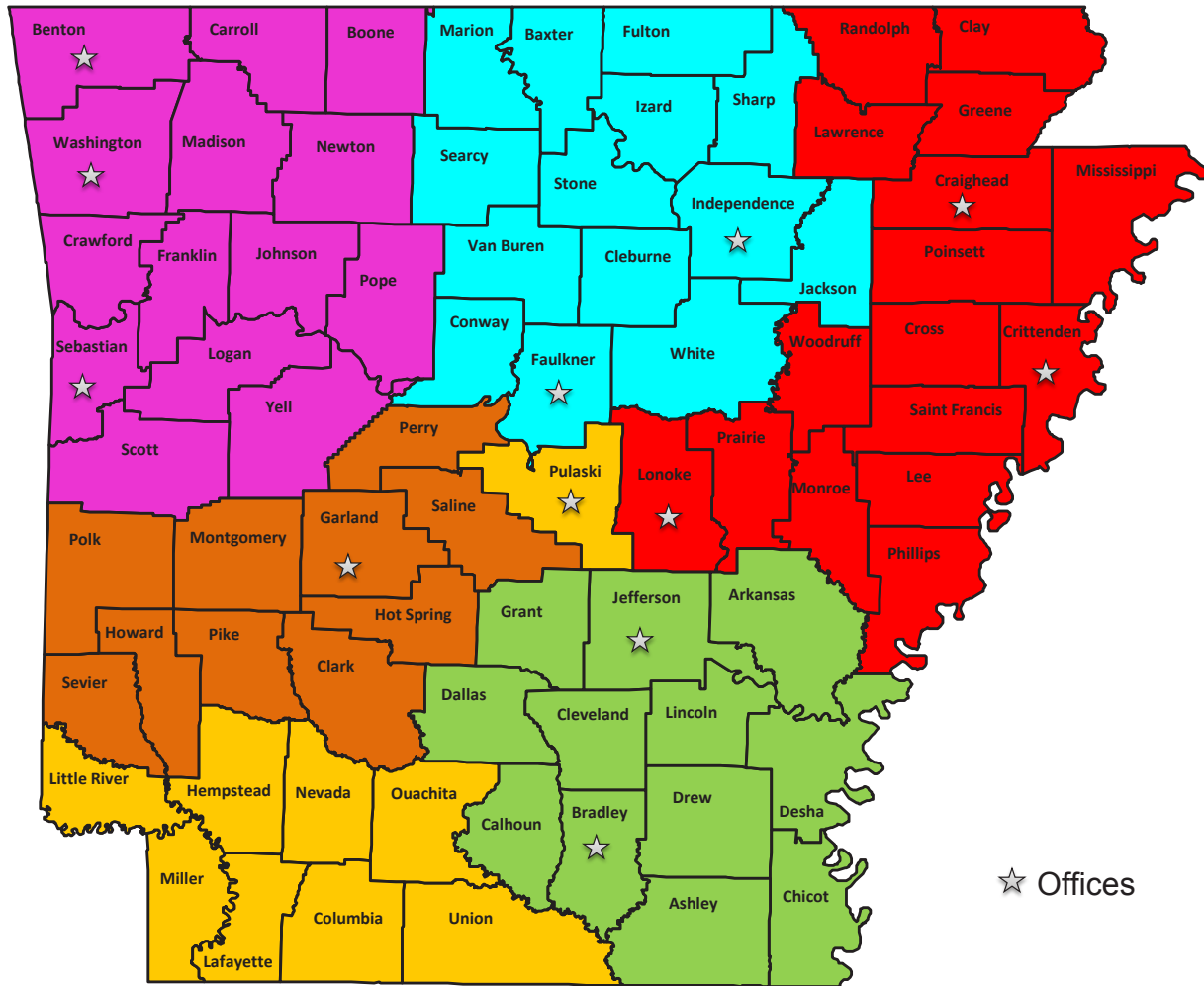
Services: A network of services dedicated to enhancing the quality and availability of childcare; advocating for children; and providing information, education, guidance and support to parents, providers, employers and the community. Provide information on how to choose a child care provider; referrals to child care facilities; parenting information; hearing and developmental screenings; a Parents as Teachers Program; a Developmental Toy Lending Library; a Lending Library for children, parents and providers; Monthly Group Connections; a monthly parent newsletter; a quarterly provider newsletter; Play and Learn (PAL) parent-child sessions; and a Cut and Create Resource Workroom.

Additional Training: Parenting workshops/classes; a variety of child care training opportunities; and CPR/First-Aid



Arkansas Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies

Partners for Quality!



Agency	Office County	Contact	E-Mail	Phone	Website
Child Care Aware of Northeast Arkansas and Lonoke County	Craighead	Jo Battle	jbattle@astate.edu	1-888-429-1585 Fax: 1-870-972-3556	chs.astate.edu
Child Care Aware of Northeast Arkansas and Lonoke County	Crittenden	Nicole Wilson	jnwilson@astate.edu	1-870-702-6769 Fax: 1-870-702-6770	chs.astate.edu
Child Care Aware of Northeast Arkansas and Lonoke County	Lonoke	Cindy Booker	cabooker@astate.edu	1-501-941-2880 Fax: 1-501-941-3551	chs.astate.edu
Child Care Aware of Central Arkansas A Program of Child Care Connections	Pulaski	Terrie Baker & Tiffani Wilkins-McGee	bakert1652@yahoo.com tiffanimcgee@yahoo.com	1-501-374-0330 Fax: 1-501-374-2414	childcareawarecswa.org
Child Care Aware of Southwest Arkansas A Program of Child Care Connections	SW Arkansas	Teresa Harper	harp411@yahoo.com	1-501-374-0330 Fax: 1-501-374-2414	childcareawarecswa.org
Child Care Aware of Northcentral Arkansas	Independence	Debbie Webb	debbie@wrpdd.org	1-800-737-2237 Fax: 1-870-793-4035	CCANA.org
Child Care Aware of Northcentral Arkansas	Faulkner	Carol Crockett	carolcrockett5@gmail.com	1-501-327-6677 Fax: 1-501-327-6677	CCANA.org
Child Care Aware of Southeast Arkansas	Jefferson	Elaine Davis & Marilyn Bailey	elainewdavis@sbcglobal.net mbailey35@sbcglobal.net	1-870-536-0520 Fax: 1-870-536-0533	jccsichildlinks.com
Child Care Aware of Southeast Arkansas	Bradley	Ramona Wallace	rwallace8@gmail.com	1-870-466-4550 Fax: 1-870-619-1755	jccsichildlinks.com
Child Care Aware of Northwest Arkansas	Washington	Carolene Thornton	cthorton@nwachildcare.org	1-479-751-3463 Fax: 1-479-751-1110	nwachildcare.org
Child Care Aware of Northwest Arkansas The Center for Non-Profits	Benton	Michelle Wynn	mwynn@nwachildcare.org	1-479-751-3463 Fax: 1-479-751-1110	nwachildcare.org
Child Care Aware of River Valley	Sebastian	Debbie Malone	dmalone@nwachildcare.org	1-479-222-6930 Fax: 1-479-222-6930	nwachildcare.org
Child Care Aware of West Central Arkansas	Garland	Terri Helms	thelms1@npcc.edu	1-501-760-6588 Fax: 1-501-760-4399	npcc.edu/childcare-aware